

February 23, 2018

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2018 Legislative Day Luncheon Highlights

Local boards from around the State gathered to network and hear from legislative leaders and policymakers. Following a Legislative Committee meeting which was held that morning, MABE President Chuck McDaniels offered opening remarks, and MABE Legislative Committee Vice-Chair Bob Lord highlighted MABE's legislative priorities. Dr. Carol Williamson, Deputy State Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, offered remarks on behalf of State Superintendent Karen Salmon, and legislators began to arrive following their floor sessions.

MABE greatly appreciates the supportive and encouraging remarks provided by the following legislative leaders:

Senate President Mike Miller, Senate Minority Leader J.B. Jennings, Delegate Anne Kaiser - Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Senator Joan Carter Conway - Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, Senator Nancy King – Chair of the Education Subcmt. of the Budget and Taxation Committee, Senator Paul Pinsky - Vice Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, Delegate Eric Luedtke - Chair of the Education Subcmt. of the Ways and Means Committee, and MABE's Event Sponsor - Senator Addie Eckardt.

In addition, MABE recognized and provided opportunities for introductions and remarks from the many Delegates and Senators who attended to visit with their local board members and enjoy lunch.

Thanks again to our Senate sponsor of the conference center venue, Senator Addie Eckardt.

MABE Supports Bills to Provide School Calendar Flexibility

MABE is supporting bills including [HB 553](#) and [HB 679](#) that would provide much needed flexibility for local school systems to adopt annual school calendars which end on or before the third Friday in June, rather than the set date of June 15th. On August 31, 2016 Governor Hogan signed an Executive Order mandating a post-Labor Day start and June 15th end of school year for all of Maryland's public schools

**Legislative Committee
2018 Calendar**

- Feb. 26, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Mar. 12, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Mar. 26, 2018 – Bill Status & Positions
- Apr. 23, 2018 – Session Summary

MABE's Legislative Committee meetings are held in the MABE office on Monday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00, unless otherwise indicated. Meeting agendas and materials are posted on the [MABE website](#).

beginning in 2017. MABE objected to this initiative as contrary to the principle of local governance, and the traditional role of boards of education and their communities in setting school calendars.

House Bill 553 would alleviate at least some of the barriers to local decision making on school calendars by authorizing a local board of education to extend the school year for up to five days without approval from the State Board of Education. In addition, the bill would facilitate a local board's ability to request a waiver from the State Board of Education for a reduction in school days. House Bill 679 would alleviate one significant barrier to local decision making on school calendars by authorizing a local board of education to adopt a calendar which runs through the third Friday in June.

[Read more ...](#)

MABE Supports Bill to End State Funding for Nonpublic Schools that Discriminate

On February 21, MABE testified in support of [SB 1060](#) to ensure that private schools receiving BOOST voucher funds comply with the same reasonable scope of antidiscrimination provisions that apply to other publicly funded schools. Types of prohibited discrimination would include refusing enrollment of, expelling, withholding privileges from, or otherwise discriminating against any student or prospective student because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

[Read more ...](#)

MABE Opposes Unfunded Mandate to Expand School Vision Screenings to Medical Eye Exams

On February 21 & 22, MABE testified in opposition to [SB 570](#) and [HB 798](#) that would require a much more complex set of vision screening requirements in schools, specifically requirements that would screen for 11 different vision conditions. MABE supports maintaining the current law, under §7-404 of the Education Article, which provides an appropriate level of mandatory vision screenings. In addition, the American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends such comprehensive eye exams not for all children, but primarily for children who fail a vision screening.

[Read more ...](#)

MABE Supports Bills to Set Reasonable Rules for Public Access to Personal Information

On February 21, MABE testified in support of [HB 677](#) that would reasonably restrict public access to lists containing personal contact information which a government entity, including a local school system, is maintaining for the narrowly defined purpose of providing informational notices or emergency communications. This is a Maryland Municipal League (MML) initiative bill.

[Read more ...](#)

On February 22, MABE also testified in support of [SB 788](#), which includes the provisions of HB 677, but also includes a set of limitations on the release of "personal surveillance video" involving domestic violence, or which could identify a victim of a sexual assault crime, and other instances. This is a Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) initiative bill.

[Read more ...](#)

MABE Bill Tracking Report & Testimony

During the 2018 session, as bills are introduced and hearings are scheduled, MABE provides a regularly updated [hearing schedule](#), [bill tracking report](#), and [all bill testimony](#).

Hearing Schedule Highlights

Bill Number	Title	Hearing	MABE Position
SB 611	Education – Healthy School Facility Fund – Established	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/27 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 187	Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018	Budget and Taxation Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 638	Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs - Research-Based Reading Instruction	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 639	Education - Public School Personnel - Disciplinary Hearing Procedures	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 657	Workgroup on Establishing an Independent School Board for the Juvenile Services Education System	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
SB 664	Education - Foreign Language Requirement - Computer Programming Language Courses	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 665	Education - Robotics Grant Program - Nonprofit Robotics Clubs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 729	County Boards of Education - Length of School Year - Adjustments	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
SB 739	State Board of Education - Membership - Teachers and Parent	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 618	Career Youth and Public Sector Apprenticeship Act	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
SB 840	Youth Sports Programs - Concussion Risk and Management Training - Requirements	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
SB 949	Career Education Policy Act	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Hearing 2/28 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
HB 808	Education - Collective Bargaining for Noncertificated Employees - Supervisory Employees	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 811	Education - Collective Bargaining - Exclusive Representative's Access to New Employee Processing	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 940	High School Credit for College Courses Act of 2018	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1061	Education - Salaries of Noncertificated Public School Employees - Minimum Living Salaries	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose

HB 1072	Education - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention - Instruction and Training	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
HB 1254	Education - School Discipline - Guidelines and Data Collection	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1488	Public Schools - School Discipline - Training Practices	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1489	Education - Due Process Hearings for Children With Disabilities - Burden of Proof	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1565	Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Schools - Discrimination - Prohibition	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Support
HB 1601	State Department of Education - Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative, Program, and Fund	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
HB 355	Accountability in Education Act of 2018	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1607	Education - Juvenile Services Education Programs - Management and Operation	Ways and Means Hearing 3/01 at 1:00 p.m.	Hold
HB 1131	State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program - Expansion of Participating Units	Appropriations Hearing 3/01 at 1:15 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1400	State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program - Employees of Qualifying Organizations	Appropriations Hearing 3/01 at 1:15 p.m.	Hold
HB 921	State Board of Education - Financial Literacy Curriculum - Graduation Requirement	Ways and Means Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1136	County Boards of Education - Student Hearing and Vision Screenings - Reporting Requirements	Ways and Means Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1311	Education - Individual Reading Improvement Plans - Requirements	Ways and Means Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose
HB 1657	Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs - Maryland Reading Standards Matrix - Established	Ways and Means Hearing 3/02 at 1:00 p.m.	Oppose

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